

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
P.O. Box 2604  
Washington, D.C. 20013

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR FBIS:

Thirty years ago, responding to initiatives by the departments of State and Justice, and Presidential direction, the U.S. Government inaugurated a new service: a staff was formed to listen to and analyze propaganda broadcasts beamed to the United States. Five years later, a counterpart group was tasked to exploit foreign language documents of military and political significance.

The present FBIS has its roots in these organizations. Now as then we seek to provide the U.S. Government with fast, accurate, comprehensive reporting, but our responsibility has grown over the years to cover the output of the radio and press media of foreign nations.

To accomplish our tasks, we have first of all depended upon hundreds of able employees, American and foreign national, whose most meaningful reward has been the opportunity to participate in an important work well done. Their devoted service makes it possible to process the enormous flow of source information and enables us to cope with some 80 languages, half of them encountered daily.

For links with the field we depend heavily on the personnel and facilities of the Defense Communications System and the Diplomatic Telecommunications System. Those that print our product serve to link us with our readers--our Daily Report series alone carries 175,000 words to 5,000 subscribers each day, thus supplementing the more immediate Wire Service of Headquarters and the lateral services of our field bureaus.

To the BBC Monitoring Service, our counterpart in the United Kingdom, we owe a special debt of gratitude. First in the field, they extended a helping hand when we began, and as partners ever since we have each avoided doing again what the other did for himself.

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In marking this occasion I wish to extend the appreciation of all of us in FBIS to our customers who have welcomed our products and guided our efforts, and to all individuals in other organizations who have contributed to our ability to provide our services.

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Director